

Tarde Hotel
Castroville, Texas.

HABS No. Tex-389 ✓

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Texas-3

Historic American Buildings Survey
Bartlett Cooke, District Officer
615 Maverick Bldg., San Antonio, Texas.

TARDE HOTEL

Castroville, Medina County, Texas.

Present Owner: Fitzsimon EstateDate of Erection: About 1845Architect: UnknownBuilder: M. TardePresent Condition: FairNumber of Stories: TwoMaterials of Construction: Limestone, cypress and oak.Other Existing Records: Abstract in possession of Father Fitzsimon,
Seguin, Texas.Additional Data:

The Tarde Hotel, built and operated for years as a hotel and stage coach relay station, was famous for its cuisine. General Robert E. Lee spent the night there on two occasions.

The house is primarily French Provincial, as were most of the houses built at that time in Castroville. The explanation of such similarity, is that a family of excellent rock masons, by the name of Balbardier were brought in with the colony by Henry Castro. They might be justly called the architects on all the stone work beginning in Castroville and extending north thru Fredericksburg. However, farther north the houses lose some of the French characteristics and are succeeded by Teutonic solidity and plainness.

According to the old histories and verbal histories of today, Castroville was a veritable tower of Babel, having the languages of low and high German, Hollander Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, French, English and several Indian dialects. It is still a village with a decided old world atmosphere.

The Tarde house has eight rooms, two halls, a porch two stories in height across the front, and a small rear porch. The house has a very distinctive stair and rail.

This information was secured from Louis Thnken of Castroville, Texas.

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Bartlett Coche, District Officer.

Date: December 8, 1936.

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